

# NEWS

INDIANA  
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## Indiana receives grant to train laid-off workers for new careers

Indiana has received \$1.2 million from the federal government to help workers in 23 counties whose jobs moved to Canada or Mexico under the North American Free Trade Act or were eliminated because of the increase of imported goods into the United States.

The U.S. Department of Labor grant will allow 120 laid-off workers, mostly from steel and manufacturing, get training for new careers.

This money came through just in time," said Craig E. Hartzler, commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. "Federal training dollars had run out because the national recession has caused so many people - in Indiana and throughout the country - to be laid off. Many of these folks were hoping to start school this fall, and we had to tell them the money had run out."

Training must be for careers in high demand. Most workers plan careers in information technology, allied health or nursing. Several workers entered programs to gain certification to teach in their hometowns.

"The state's team of local Trade Adjustment Assistance coordinators had already been meeting with these workers, developing training plans and getting them ready for school," Hartzler said. "When we realized the money wasn't going to be there, we had to act quickly to apply for this grant."

Workers receiving training were previously certified eligible for either TAA or NAFTA-TAA by the U.S. Department of Labor. To be certified, a group of three workers, a union representative or an authorized company representative may file a petition for certification if they think their jobs were lost or their hours or wages were decreased because of increased imports or a move of their company to Canada or Mexico. Petitions may be filed at any WorkOne office.